



The Pequod II, 1987, wood & metal kinetic sculpture
96 x 77 x 206 in. (243.8 x 195.6 x 523.2 cm)

Michael C. McMillen OUTPOST

13 JANUARY – 13 FEBRUARY 2016

Reception for the artist: Wednesday, 13 January 6-8 pm

Venice, CA -- L.A. Louver is pleased to present an exhibition spanning nearly four decades of work by Los Angeles-based artist Michael C. McMillen, recipient of a 2015 Guggenheim Artist Fellowship.

One of the earliest works in the exhibition, *Pequod II* (1987), derives its name from Herman Melville's literary classic *Moby Dick*. *Pequod II* depicts a 17 foot long fantasy ship that while suspended from the ceiling appears to be moving through space. The vessel's billowing sails intensify the illusion of forward movement. Like most of McMillen's works, *Pequod II* is a seamless amalgam of found objects and raw materials fabricated with meticulous attention to detail.

The most recent sculpture on view, the eponymous *Outpost* (2015), utilizes an antique chair that McMillen has transformed into the architectural foundation of a miniaturized industrial compound that stands desolate and on the brink of collapse. Another recent work *Transmitter* (2014), which premiered at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut in 2015, features a suspended tower that slowly rotates, to cast animated shadows on an adjacent wall.

Architecture is a common theme of many of the works on view. McMillen says, "Whether marine or terra based, mobile or static, architecture can be seen as a protective perimeter; a vessel to sustain the lives within." This concept is most visibly conveyed in *Dr. Crump's Mobile Field Lab* (aka *Inductive Geo-Imaging Field Laboratory* (2004-2014)). The interactive installation was first created for the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, during McMillen's residency on campus in 2004. Visitors may enter the trailer, which appears to be a small mobile laboratory left unattended by an unseen scientist, with experiments still in progress. A fictional character created by McMillen, Dr. Crump is personified through the scientific instruments, quirky objects and relics on display within the hermetic makeshift workspace. A vintage TV monitor within the trailer plays three short films by the artist that expand the viewer's imagination beyond the limits of the dense interior and beyond the realm of the gallery walls.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Michael C. McMillen earned both an MA and MFA at UCLA and was an early proponent of installation art. One-person museum exhibitions include the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1977); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1978); Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia (1980), and the Oakland Museum of California (1990, 2011), which featured the installations *The Pavilion of Rain* (1989), *Train of Thought* (1990) and *Red Trailer Motel* (2003). Most recently, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art exhibited a solo show of McMillen's works in 2015, as part of their ongoing series *MATRIX*. Further, McMillen's work has been presented in numerous museum group shows including the Solomon R. Guggenheim, New York; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Pompadour; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Palais de Tokyo, Paris France.

Concurrently on view at L.A. Louver 13 January - 13 February 2016

Rebecca Campbell: *You are Here* – A new series of painted portraits, all of woman artists



Alexandra (from the *You are Here* series), 2015
acrylic on paper, 30 x 22 1/4 in. (76.2 x 56.5 cm)

Rebecca Campbell

YOU ARE HERE

13 JANUARY – 13 FEBRUARY 2016

Reception for the artist: Wednesday, 13 January 6-8 pm

Venice, CA -- L.A. Louver is proud to announce an exhibition by Los Angeles-based artist Rebecca Campbell that features a new series of portraits, all of woman artists.

Motivated by the lack of women's representation in the art world, and in homage to the artists who inspire her, Campbell began her *You are Here* project in Fall 2015. The first 18 paintings from this series will be installed in L.A. Louver's second floor gallery, 13 January – 13 February 2016.

"I am not interested in making very realistic depictions; I do not sort people out by what they make; I just choose people who are serious, diligent, hard working, and good at what they do."

– Rebecca Campbell

Campbell makes each painting with the same dimensions (30 x 22 ½ in. [76.2 x 56.5 cm]), using paper that she primes with a custom pink acrylic paint. She then employs a limited palette of black, white, and gray to build the portrait. Although she approaches each work with identical parameters, Campbell imbues each portrait with a unique sense of identity, capturing their likeness with bold and gestural brushstrokes. Each sitter meets the gaze of the viewer, with her strengths and vulnerabilities candidly conveyed. Beyond subject matter, these works are a celebration of painting itself, and the quality of imagery that can only be brought forth with paint and brush. As Campbell states, "I believe deeply in process being content."

The women painters, sculptors, writers and performers Campbell depicts include: Amy Adler, Sarah Awad, Linda Besemer, Heather Brown, Kyung Sun Cho, Patricia Fernandez, Alexandra Grant, Annie Lapin, Gwynn Murrill, Julie Orser, Susan Sifton, Jennifer Steinkamp, Mpambo Wina and Eve Wood among others.

Rebecca Campbell was born and raised in Salt Lake City, the youngest of seven children in a strict Mormon family. Campbell earned her BFA from Pacific Northwest College of Art and her MFA from UCLA, graduating in 2001. In addition to California, Campbell's paintings have been exhibited across the United States, from New York, Vermont and Florida, to Ohio, Utah, Colorado and Oregon, and overseas in Madrid, Spain, and Basel, Switzerland. In 2011, she was featured alongside Angela Ellsworth in the two-person exhibition *A Peculiar People* at the Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona.

Concurrent to the L.A. Louver exhibition, Campbell's work may be seen in *Dreams of Another Time*, a two-person exhibition with Samantha Fields, curated by Kristina Newhouse at the University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach (30 January – 10 April 2016). A solo exhibition of Campbell's work titled *The Potato Eaters* will be on view at the Lancaster Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, California (7 May – 24 July 2016) and travels to Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo, Utah (30 September 2016 – 18 February 2017).

Concurrently on view at L.A. Louver 13 January - 13 February 2016:

Michael C. McMillen: *OUTPOST* – New and early mixed media sculptures and a large interactive installation